

EVACUATION HOSPITAL "2 USA

COBLENZ, GERMANY,

2nd February 1929.

My Dearest Girl:-

I was unable to write to you yesterday, and am very sorry that it was so, but it could not be helped, and as you have had the same experience often I guess you will forgive me without a struggle. I was so busy that I had no time to do a thing but work, and I worked 'till late last night. I spent the whole evening after finishing work, in my quarters playing solitaire, but I had no ink there so could not write to you then. I haven't the heart to use a pencil to write a letter. It is one thing that I hate to see.

I went to bed at ten O'Clock last night, and had the best night's sleep that I have had for weeks. I feel greatly refreshed this morning, and still I am glad that it is Sunday and that I will not have to work as hard as I do on other days. If I were at home now I would go to church with you and we would have the most wonderful Sunday that we have ever had, but we will have to wait for that for some time yet. There were some new rumors started last night that sounded very interesting to us, and I am feeling more and more convinced each day that we are going to get away from here soon. I have not the slightest doubt that we will know exactly when we are going to leave inside of a week or two, but that does not mean that we will leave then. It will take quite a while to get away after we do get the orders, and after we have reached the port it takes a week or two to get ready to get on the ship, as they delouse every outfit whether they need it or not. Our men are not in need of that now, as I have had them all deloused twice since coming here.

I will be glad to get back in God's Country where such things as cooties and fleas are a thing unknown. I have been dodging and scratching them long enough, and can very nicely get along without it for the rest of my life. We have the paper work of our outfit all up to date, and that will not be a means of holding us in the A.E.F. a minute, so that I feel good on that score. I have never seen anything like the amount of paper work the Third Army gave us to do, it has seemed

interminable. If I didn't have a good Sergeant I have no idea what I would have done but fortunately I have a star, and can depend on him to get things done in a correct manner and absolutely accurately, so that my worries in that direction are very small indeed. He has worked as I have never seen a man work before, except myself when I was on mustering duty in Michigan and Missouri. That was a time when some real work was done, and I was the star performer. I guess you have not forgotten it in Detroit especially. Do you remember the day that we all drove to Lansing with Mel in the Pearce-Arrow? I never will forget how hot it was will you? Has Mel still that car or has he sold it? I wish to assure you Dearest that it will not be very long after I return before we have another car. I will not be able to do much business without one, and I expect to be as busy as I was before I left home, in a very short time after I return.

I wonder how that will work out? I have no doubt at all but that I will lose a great deal of my old business, for one cannot be away from home for so long a time as I have been and not do so, but I feel that a great deal of it will come back to me without a bit of trouble, and I hope that I am not mistaken. We will have need of money after I get back, for then the money that I have been receiving from the Government will stop, and I will have only what I am able to earn. I am not one bit worried about it however, and all I want is the chance to start it, and get my business under way again.

I received a paper from home the other day in which was contained the full page advertisement of Alex Campbell's, with his picture et al. I never have been more disgusted with such a thing in my life, and am now able to say that I can put him in exactly the same category as Barth for newspaper advertising. It was a funny thing for a man like Campbell to do, and I think it will hurt him a lot, especially as we over here all know what he has been doing since he has been here. I showed the "ad" to all the men here and they all had a good laugh at it. I know now that you can understand why I am so anxious that you will keep my name out of the papers. It will be the means of creating a lot of talk and is an absolutely unnecessary method of

advertising of which I do not approve.

I have recieved no mail from you for two or three days now, so I expect to get some today. It is very rare now that more than two or three days pass without some mail coming, and I am anxiously waiting for the arrival of the mail man this morning for I fully expect thathe will have a letter or two for me from you. I have nothing to look forward to on any day except the mail and it is disappointing not to get mail.

Well Dearest I must close now. It is nearly time for the C.O. to make his weekly inspection, and I will have to ggwith him when he makes it. I am more than pleased with the new C.O. and am glad that the chage was made. He is so much more an officer than any we have had as yet, and it is much easier to work with him and for him. Oh Lord!! I will be glad when I am working for myself again. It is getting tiresome to be taking orders all the time, but everyone in the army except the President has to do so, so I should not feel imposed upon. Nothing on the face of the earth could ever interest me in the regular army as a vocation and I absolutely fail to understand how a man of any spirit can think of it. I have had enought already.

Give my love and kisses to the babies and Glad. Tell them how much I love them. I will write to you again tomorrow. I love you dearest. I love you.

Ansel B. Smith
Ansel B. Smith Captain MC USA

A.B.

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